

Application No. 10/805,686
Amendment Responsive to 19 April 2005 Office Action

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney appreciatively acknowledges the cordial and constructive teleconference of today with the Examiner and believes that the amendments to the pending claims are in accord with the agreement reached.

Claims 2-13, 21, and 23-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2-3, 6, and 8-9 are amended and claims 1, 14-20, and 22 are canceled.

Allowable claims 2 and 3 are amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 2 is further amended to recite that the second ply includes "a multiplicity of cross plies" rather than "a planar portion and a multiplicity of cross portions." Support for the amendment to claim 2 can be found, e.g., in Figure 5 in the specification at column 3, line 18 et seq. Amending claim 2 with the latter amendments merely restates the limitations present and, therefore, does not narrow the scope thereof.

Claim 6 is amended to recite "the batten longitudinal axis," in place of "a batten longitudinal axis," the former limitation having antecedence in claim 3, from which claim 6 indirectly depends. Correcting antecedence does not narrow the scope of claim 6.

Claim 8 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention by reciting "another of the first plies and the second ply" rather than "the other of the first plies and the second ply." Applicant submits that the former limitation recognizes that more than two first plies might be present in some embodiments of this invention; hence the amendment, if anything, broadens the scope of claim 8.

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Claim 9 is amended to recite "a plurality of hingelines" and to recite the intact portions "comprising substantially intact first plies" rather than "comprising substantially intact first and second plies." Support for the foregoing amendment can be found, e.g., in the paragraph beginning at column 3, line 64. Applicant submits that the foregoing amendment, if anything, broadens the scope of claim 9.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims presented herein. In view of the amendments to the claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges that the documents provided in the 16 March 2005 Information Disclosure have been considered. Applicant also requests that the documents provided via the 28 March 2005 Information Disclosure be considered and made of record as well.

35 U.S.C. § 102

2. Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by GB 2 062 056A to Newmann. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, claims 1 and 14 are canceled; hence, the rejection is regarded as moot. In view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 14 reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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3. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 3,647,606 to Notaro. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, claim 22 is canceled and the rejection is deemed moot. In view of the cancellation of claim 22, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

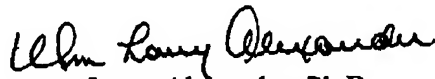
4. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges that claims 15-21 are allowed and that claims 2-13 and 23-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For reasons stated above, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. To this end, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


Wm. Larry Alexander, Ph.D.
Registration No. 37,269

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thunte, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5757

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